

Minutes: Northfield Town Building and Energy Committee
Date: Wednesday, September 3, 2014
Time: 5:30 p.m.

Attending were: Committee members Matt Gadbois, Jim Wilson and Brad Denny; Brown Public Library trustee John Stephens and Town Manager Jeff Schulz.

The meeting was convened at 5:30 p.m. in Manager Schulz's office. Jim Wilson moved and Matt Gadbois seconded the nomination of Brad Denny as chairman and, when, there were no other nominations and no one else volunteered to serve in the position, he accepted the position.

The chairman acknowledged that, while the committee is charged with oversight responsibilities for all Town buildings (except for utility buildings) and making recommendations to the Select Board and the manager, the immediate concern is with the Brown Public Library. He said that he had made contact with former library trustee Frank Plumley and with Jay Ancel of Black River Design to begin a search for materials relating to the major addition and renovation to the library completed about 12-14 years ago. The exact date will be pinned down.

The committee then moved to the Brown Public Library in order to review the list of building related concerns conveyed to the select board by the Library Trustees.

The concerns reviewed during the tour of the library were in order: The granite steps at the sidewalk; restoration of caulking between the granite steps leading to the Library entrance; possible damage to the main building roof rafters which may have caused movement of the dormer over the front entrance; a roof leak which appears to originate in the joint which joins the original brick building with the addition housing the library addition and community room; the thermostats and other control systems which regulate heating and ventilation of the building; difficulty in opening the left hand exterior door (as seen from the outside) of the community room in the winter; and deterioration of the shed roof over the exterior stairs leading to the basement at the rear of the original, brick library.

Possible fixes for each concern were discussed. It was agreed that there had been sufficient examination and discussion of the issues that the committee was prepared to provide the select board with an update on its activities and recommendations regarding some of the concerns with which it has been presented, including the granite steps at the sidewalk, the railing, and the caulking of the entrance steps. The committee can also outline certain steps to be taken with respect to more complex concerns. It was noted that proposals to do the engineering work for repair of the main roof are due 9/8/14 and would be available at the 9/9/14 meeting of the board. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Brad Denny